

Attorney Docket No. AGZP:114US  
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/800,820  
Preliminary Amendment  
Date: January 13, 2005

### Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0003] with the following amended paragraph:

[0003] As known, for the production of seamless garments, circular knitting machines are normally used. This kind of ~~machines allows to obtain~~ machine enables the production of tubular knitted articles that are then collected and ~~subject~~ subjected to further finishing operations to provide a predetermined final product.

Please replace paragraphs [0006-0008] with the following amended paragraphs:

[0006] However, using such special stitches that cannot be unravelled ~~limit~~ limits the possibility ~~to make of making different products~~ from ~~a~~ the same raw tubular portion-different products. In other words, the production must be programmed with less flexibility.

[0007] The whole finishing cycle of the garment provides, before cutting, the step of drawing it on plain forms by steaming and drying. Then, the drawn tubular garment is unloaded from the forms and ~~subject to manual~~ is then manually cut with scissors[;]. Eventually Eventually, finishing seams are made with so called “sewing and cutting” machines. However, the step of ~~manual-cut~~ manually cutting before making the finishing seams requires much manual work ~~labor~~.

[0008] It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide an apparatus for making garments, such as outwear, underwear, and swimwear, starting from tubular knitted textiles that ~~makes~~ allows for easier and faster the finishing operations.

Please replace paragraphs [0010-0013] with the following amended paragraphs:

[0010] It is a further object of the present invention to provide an apparatus for making garments starting from tubular knitted textiles ~~for obtaining~~ at much lower production costs.

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[0011] It is also an object of the present invention to provide an apparatus that allows for making garments starting from tubular knitted textiles ~~for reducing the used using a reduced amount of materials~~, in particular the forms for the garments.

[0012] It is also an object of the present invention to provide an apparatus for making garments starting from tubular knitted textiles that allows ~~to obtain combining~~ in a single operation the drawing and cutting steps.

[0013] These and other objects are achieved by the apparatus according to the invention for making knitted garments starting from a knitted raw tubular portion, whose main feature is that it comprises at least one tubular support capable of rotating about at least one axis on which the knitted raw tubular portion is put ~~for being subject and subjected~~ to at least one operation.

Please replace paragraph [0015] with the following amended paragraph:

[0015] The operation can be a cutting step, and in this case the tubular support is associated ~~to~~ with at least one means for cutting the knitted raw tubular portion according to at least one predetermined cutting line; the cutting means being capable of moving with respect to the tubular support along at least one direction. In particular, by combination of rotation of the tubular support and of translation of the cutting means, edges can be cut ~~of~~ into a desired shape.

Please replace paragraph [0018] with the following amended paragraph:

[0018] Preferably, said cutting means is ~~of a~~ a laser type cutter. This way, with knitted garments of synthetic yarn the cutting step is possible without the need of preliminarily knitting on the article stitches that cannot be unravelled; in fact the laser at the same time cuts and melts the fibres along a line, and the suction of air immediately cools them~~[,]~~ which therefore Therefore, the fibres in use cannot be unravelled.

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Please replace paragraphs [0020-0022] with the following amended paragraphs:

**[0020]** According to another aspect of the invention, an apparatus to manufacture knitted garments starting from a knitted raw tubular portion comprises a carousel rotatable about a driven axis on whose boundary a plurality of tubular supports is arranged—~~of tubular supports~~, each tubular support being carried stepwise by the carousel through corresponding workstations.

**[0021]** Advantageously, at least at one of said workstations for said tubular supports are operatively connected to actuating means, which causes them to rotate about at least one electronically controlled axis.

**[0022]** Preferably, said tubular supports have peripherally a plurality of holes that at least at one workstation are put in communication with a suction system, in order to cause ~~to the~~ the processed tubular knitted textiles to adhere on the surface of the tubular support same. This way, the correct position is assured of the processed knitted raw tubular portion during the operation.

Please replace paragraphs [0024-0026] with the following amended paragraphs:

**[0024]** After the moisturizing station at least one drying station can be provided. In particular, in ~~the a single one or each a plurality of drying station stations~~, the knitted raw tubular portion put on the tubular support is crossed by a warm air flow that ~~draws it flows over on the same support same~~.

**[0025]** One of the stations provided is a cutting station ~~on the tubular support~~.

**[0026]** Preferably, in the cutting station the step of cutting the knitted raw tubular portion is made through a cutting means movable along at least one direction with respect to the tubular support; the latter is operatively connected to said the actuating means, which cause it to rotate about at least one electronically controlled axis. In particular, the cutting step is carried out through a combination of controlled motion of the tubular support and the cutting means in order

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to provide quickly and precisely cut edges of desired shape. At the same time, the tubular support is put in communication with the suction system.

Please replace paragraph [0035] with the following amended paragraph:

[0035] In an embodiment alternative to that shown in Figure 5, a tubular support 2 can be peripherally equipped with a plurality of holes 42 that are in communication with a suction system, not shown, through a duct 29 (Figure 6), causing the knitted raw tubular portion 3 to adhere on the surface of the tubular support 2. This way, the correct position is assured ~~of~~ for the processed portion 3 on tubular support 2 during a cutting step (Figure 8) by a laser cutter 31.

Please replace paragraphs [0038-0040]] with the following amended paragraphs:

[0038] More in detail, when tubular support 2 stops at a workstation in which is not necessary its rotation about axis 102, for example in case of a station of loading 150 or unloading 155, carried out manually by an operator 50, motor unit 52 is switched off by the shaft of support 2 bringing the two clutch elements 12-14 apart, while bolt 9 is inserted in housing 10 (Figure 9A). This avoids ~~that during the treatment in that station relative~~ uncontrolled rotation of support 2 ~~can rotate freely in a way not controlled during treatment at that station.~~

[0039] When, instead, tubular support 2 stops at a station in which the rotation about axis 102 is preferable or necessary, for example in case of a moisturizing station 151 or a cutting station 154, the bolt 9 that locks support 2 is withdrawn from housing 10 and then lower clutch element 14, operated for example by a piston pneumatic, ~~matches~~ connects with upper clutch element 12. This way, motor unit 52 can bring support 2 into rotation about axis 102.

[0040] As shown in Figure 10, when tubular support 2 is at drying station 152 it enters drying tunnel 23 and remains inside for two steps of carousel 100. At each cycle the inlet/outlet sliding doors 24 of tunnel 23 are closed. On the roof of tunnel 23 heaters 25 are arranged above which air aspirators 26 are installed. The air passes through heaters 25 and exits warm, reaching through ducts and grids 27 tunnel 23 from below. This way, a vortex of warm air from below towards the above in tunnel 23 reaches the article 3 and draws flows across it.